

Agenda

Veterans Affairs Commission

Tuesday, January 17 2006
3:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Municipal Plaza Bldg., "C" Room
114 W. Commerce

VAC Chairman

Ralph Zendejas, Acting Chair

VAC Members:

Karen S. Rankin, Roy Lee, Irvin L. Padgett, Erik Frederick, Richard E. Gonzales Jr., Reuben G. Salas, Manuel S. Perez, Bob Murdock, Richard Holgin, Edward Lavin

VAC Liaisons:

Carmelina R. Davis, Economic Development Dept.

VAC Technical Advisors: Craig Erickson, Bexar County

Agenda Topics

3:00 P.M.

Call To Order

Ralph Zendejas, Acting Chair

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Citizens to be Heard
- III. Approval of the Minutes – 12/12/05

New Business

- IV. Appreciation Certificates:
 - Julian Oviedo
 - Rojelio Garcia
- V. Election of New Officers

Old Business

- VI. Memorial for the Medal of Honor Winners
- VII. National Association of the Order of the Purple Heart
- VIII. Other Business

Adjournment

Next Meeting: 2/17/06 at 9:30 a.m.

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COMMISSION ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Minutes

Monday, December 12, 2005, 12:00 p.m.
Municipal Plaza, "C" Room, 114 W. Commerce

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Ralph Zendejas-Acting Chair
Edward Lavin
Erik Frederick
Karen S. Rankin
Irvin L Padgett
Manuel Perez
Richard Holgin
Bob Murdock

ABSENT

Roy Lee
Richard Gonzales, Jr.
Reuben Salas

CITY STAFF:

Carmelina R. Davis, Economic Development Department

OTHER AGENCIES & GUESTS:

None

I. Call to Order

Mr. Ralph Zendejas, VAC Acting Chair, called the monthly meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Members, staff, and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizens to be Heard

There were no Citizens to be Heard

IV. Minutes

The members reviewed the minutes from the November 14, 2005 meeting. Ms. Rankin motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Padgett seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. New Business

Selection of Nominating Committee

Mr. Zendejas reported that according to Ray Rodriguez, City Attorney's Office, he had to nominate less than 5 members to the Nominating Committee. The

Nominating Committee will have a meeting to create a slate for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions for the Commissions' consideration in January.

Mr. Zendejas asked for volunteers. Mr. Padget and Mr. Perez volunteered and Mr. Reuben Salas was drafted as Chair. Ms. Rankin suggested that one of the new members be selected to the Committee to get oriented with the process. Mr. Lavin who is a new member volunteered.

Mr. Zendejas reminded the Commission to inform Ms. Davis of any meetings so that she can assist with logistics and postings.

VI. Old Business

Memorial for the Medal of Honor Recipients

Mr. Zendejas reminded Mr. Holgin to coordinate a meeting on the Medal of Honor Winners memorial recommendations in time for the February 17th VAC meeting that the Mayor will attend. Ms. Rankin reminded Ms. Davis that the January 16th meeting was on a holiday, so Ms. Davis would have to change it to the 17th. She also asked that the MOH meeting transpire before the meeting with the Mayor. Mr. Zendejas added that the Patriot Awards would also be another topic to bring forth that day. Mr. Frederick asked Ms. Davis to send the new members the revised recommendations to the Patriot Award Ceremony.

Mr. Zendejas stated that he would have a presenter at the January VAC meeting who was interested in erecting a veteran's wall, a brick-walk, and a bike trail from San Antonio to Corpus and on to the Valley, featuring certain war periods. He said that City Council had been approached on this some years ago. Mr. Zendejas said that generous commitments had been acquired for this project. Mr. Zendejas said that he would provide Ms. Davis with the proposal.

Ms. Davis said that Major M.R. Stuckey, Marines for Life, was also scheduled to make a presentation. Ms. Rankin said that because of the preparations on the two items being presented to the Mayor in February and the elections, it was best to reschedule Mr. Stuckey's presentation. Ms. Davis informed the VAC that Mr. Stuckey would be under the "Citizens to Be Heard" and would require not more than 5 minutes. Ms. Rankin reminded the VAC that Mr. Stuckey would only be able to provide a five minute overview or else it would be exposed as "new business." It was decided to move both presentations to March.

Army All American Bowl

Mr. Frederick asked if anyone had heard word on the "Army All American Bowl." Ms. Rankin stated that she had not, but suspected that they were working directly with Fort Sam. Mr. Zendejas indicated that the next game was in January. She asked Ms. Davis to contact Amy in the Rotary Office to find out about it. The organizers made a presentation last year on the event.

Mr. Holgin informed the VAC that he attended the funeral of Sgt. Paul Parret, a Homeless Veteran buried at Fort Sam. He also mentioned that Mr. Lavin and he met on the MOH and designated duties for research. He stated that he would like the entire MOH Committee to meet with Mr. Howard at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday at Starbucks on 1604 and Bandera. The meeting would be just to

gather information and bring it back to the Commission at the next meeting. He indicated that Mr. Howard was a Vice-President of the Medal of Honor Organization. Mr. Howard has requested the list of the Medal of Honor recipients from Texas to provide to the VAC.

Mr. Holgin also reported that he delivered some of the Patriot Award plaques that were not picked up by the families of the fallen soldiers at the ceremony in November. He still had two more to deliver.

National Association of the Order of the Purple Heart

Mr. Padgett asked for the status on the National Purple Heart Association relocation. Mr. Frederick informed the VAC that he had been playing telephone-tag with Mr. Tony Roman from the Purple Heart Association. He stated that although Councilman Perez supported this effort, the concern still stood about the Association leaving town after a two-year stay. He indicated that he would continue his efforts in contacting Mr. Roman and would also get information on this to take it back to Councilman Perez. Mr. Zendejas said that the VAC's efforts on this project should also be mentioned to the Mayor. Ms. Rankin said that Trey Jacobson should be informed about this process, as he was working on this as well.

Mr. Padgett informed staff that Ms. Davis had sent an e-mail regarding a handicapped veteran who was issued a ticket for parking in a handicapped parking slot in spite of having a handicapped decal. Ms. Rankin suggested to Ms. Davis that a letter from the VAC Chair be sent to the Texas Veterans Association in Austin, as this was a Tex Dot Regulation, so that they can address the issue. She further stated that a letter should be sent to Glen Gardner, Chair of the Texas Veterans Coalition, for his assistance.

VII. Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for January 17, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. With no further business to discuss, Mr. Padgett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Rankin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.